

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PALERM 00114 252112Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 /058 W
-----260745 049846 /23-12

R 241600Z FEB 77
FM AMCONGEN PALERMO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2003
INFO RUFHRO /AMEMB ROME IT//0851

C O N F I D E N T I A L PALERMO 0114
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: PSI PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES IN SICILY
REF: ROME 1746

1. SUMMARY: PROFESSED UNANIMITY AND SOME NEW FACES ARE THE SURFACE FEATURES OF PSI PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES HELD SINCE LAST NOVEMBER IN PROVINCES OF SIRACUSA, RAGUSA, MESSINA, ENNA AND AGRIGENTO. OTHER PROVINCES, INCLUDING LARGE PALERMO AND CATANIA FEDERATIONS, ARE NOT SCHEDULED TO HOLD CONGRESSES IN NEAR FUTURE, ALTHOUGH UPCOMING REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING SHOULD PERMIT BROADER LOOK AT LOCAL PSI'S EMERGING LINE AND LEADERSHIP. CURRENT TREND - FUELED MORE BY PERSONAL LOYALTIES/OPPORTUNITIES THAN BY PRINCIPLE - CLEARLY FAVORS CRAXI LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.
2. WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE MORE RECENT EARLY-FEBRUARY)

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG3617 C O N F I D E N T I A L PALERMO 0114
AGRIGENTO CONGRESS, THE FORMAL, FACTION-STRENGTH RESULTS OF EARLIER PSI PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES HAVE ALREADY BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. INDEED, RECENT PARTY DEVELOPMENTS, WHETHER SANCTIONED BY CONGRESS RESULTS OR NOT, INDICATE CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE CRAXI LEADERSHIP ALTHOUGH THIS IS CLEARLY DUE MORE TO PERSONAL AND FACTIONAL "TRASFORMISMO" THAN TO FIRM IDEOLOGICAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PALERM 00114 252112Z

3. CONGRESS AND OTHER PARTY DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NOT ALTERED FACT THAT SALVATORE LAURICELLA REMAINS THE PARTY'S PREDOMINANT FIGURE IN SICILY - WHICH HE FORMERLY RULED AS A DE MARTINIANO FIEFDOM. LAURICELLA'S OPPOSITION - GASPARE SALADINO IN WESTERN SICILY AND NICOLA CAPRIA IN THE EAST - ARE BOTH FORMER LAURICELLA PROTEGES WHO DO NOT DIFFER WITH HIM ON POLICY. AS A CONSEQUENCE, 95 PERCENT OF THE SICILIAN PSI BACKED CRAXI AT THE MIDAS HOTEL CENTRAL COMMITTEE

MEETING AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIM NOW.

4. PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ACTIVITY AND RESULTS TO DATE HAVE THUS REVOLVED MORE AROUND PRO-AND-ANTI LAURICELLA FORCES THAN AROUND THE CRAXI LEADERSHIP OR FINITE POLITICAL ISSUES. A SPRINKLING OF WOMEN AND YOUTH FEDERATION MEMBERS WERE INDEED ELECTED TO PARTY POSITIONS, BUT POLICY POSITIONS APPROVED WERE LARGELY A REHASH OF TRADITIONAL

PAGE 03 RUFRSGG3617 C O N F I D E N T I A L PALERMO 0114

SOCIALIST RHETORIC INCLUDING A RITUAL BOW TO SICILY'S, AND THE PSI'S, "MEDITERRANEAN" VOCATION. IN NO CASE WERE DISCRETE POLITICAL CHOICES VOTED UP OR DOWN, THUS LEAVING LAURICELLA ET AL WITH MAXIMUM MANEUVER-ROOM AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

5. COMMENT: SINCE CONGRESS RESULTS HAVE NOT PROVIDED READY INDICATORS, WE HAVE TRIED TO DISTILL DISCERNIBLE ATTITUDES FROM RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL SOCIALISTS. GIST OF THESE CONVERSATIONS REFLECTS:

- GENERAL SUPPORT FOR CRAXI LEADERSHIP, FOR PARTY RENEWAL AND FOR QUIET EVENTUAL SHELVEING OF SHOPWORN EX-LEADERS LIKE DE MARTINO AND MANCINI.
 - VISCERAL, IF PRIVATE, CONCERN ABOUT PSI'S FUTURE IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF DC-PCI "COMPROMESSO".
 - UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, ABOUT HOW TO COPE WITH COMPROMESSO BECAUSE OF INFERIORITY COMPLEX VIS A VIS COMMUNISTS AND RESIDUAL DISTRUST OF DC.
 - DIFFICULTY OF FINDING SPACE WITHIN LEFT NOT ALREADY BETTER OCCUPIED BY PCI OR EVEN BY RADICAL PARTY).
 - RELUCTANCE TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE UNTIL PSI "CREDIBILITY" RESTORED
- CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PALERM 00114 252112Z

AFTER YEARS OF CENTER-LEFT WHICH PARTY FEELS CORRODED ITS IMAGE AS

PAGE 04 RUFRSGG3617 C O N F I D E N T I A L PALERMO 0114

HONEST AND ENERGETIC ADVOCATE OF WORKING CLASS.

- REALIZATION FROM MOST SOCIALISTS WE HAVE TALKED TO THAT U.S. REMAINS VALID INTERLOCUTOR, NOT PREJUDICED AGAINST PSI. COMPANION FEATURES SEEM TO BE GREATER INTEREST IN HOW WE SEE THINGS, LESS ANTI-U.S. LECTURING AND POSTURING, RECEPTIVITY TO EXPRESSIONS OF U.S. SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT.
- COLLINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PALERM00114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770067-0544
Format: TEL
From: PALERMO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770213/aaaaaInf.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c64c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 1746
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3241092
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PSI PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES IN SICILY
TAGS: PINT, IT, PSI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c64c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009